

REMARKS

In the Official Action of October 8, 2003, claims 1-14 had been presented for examination. Of these, claims 1 and 8 had been rejected but claims 2-7 and 9-14 were indicated as "objected to" and allowable if re-written in independent form. Applicant has re-written claims 2 and 9 independently as new claims 15 and 22, respectively. The precise wording of the claim language may have changed slightly but a change in scope is not intended.

Claims 1 and 8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

All but two of the new claims are taken, as closely as possible from claims already examined, no substantive changes intended. New claim 27 corresponds most nearly to a combination of former claims 1 and 3. New claim 32 corresponds most nearly to a combination of former claims 8 and 10. New claim 37 corresponds most nearly to a combination of former claims 1 and 4. New claim 39 corresponds most nearly to a combination of former claims 8 and 11. New claim 41 corresponds most nearly to a combination of former claims 1 and 7. New claim 42 corresponds most nearly to a combination of former claims 8 and 14.

New claims 43 and 44 are first presented herein and are claims offered to protect a specific embodiment of the invention not previously claimed.

As applicant has canceled the rejected claims and has re-written in independent form the "objected to" claims 2 and 9, and as new claims 43 and 44 appear to be allowable over the references of record, this application should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee


Serial No.: 09/831,596
Conf. No.: 7171

- 9 -

Art Unit: 2644

occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
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